

You Have the Right To...

- You have the right to change your mind about your adoption plan at any point before the baby is born.
- After the baby is born and before you have signed legal consent or paperwork for the adoption, you have the right to be informed about the law and your ability to change your mind and timeframe to revoke your consent to the adoption.

Your Additional Rights...

- To receive at least 3 free and confidential options counseling sessions to help with your decision.
- Continued counseling even after your rights have been terminated.
- Select and meet the adoptive family.
- Place your baby directly from the hospital with a family. Foster care is not required.
- Seek an open adoption including picture and letter updates as well as visits.
- Help from the hospital social worker:
 - about your decision
 - if you are feeling pressured

New Jersey Office

451 Woodland Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

856.665.5655

732.335.8883

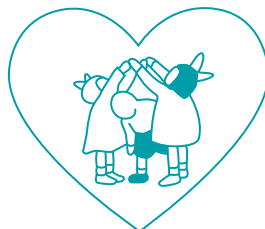
Adoptions From The Heart is a statewide agency serving all parts of New Jersey.

Speak with a counselor in confidence

24 hours a day

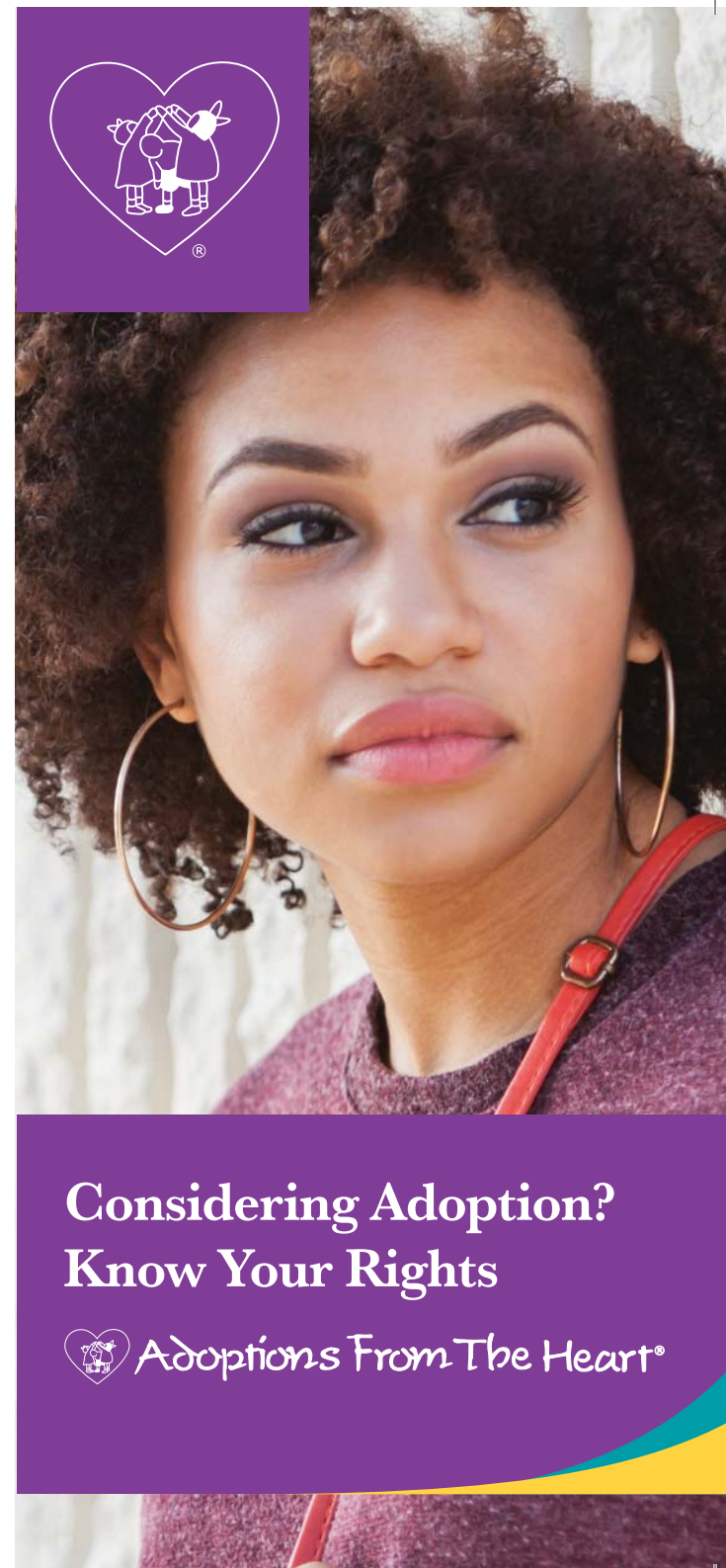
800-355-5500

afth.org/pregnant



Adoptions From The Heart®

AFTH is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency licensed in PA, NJ, DE, VA, CT and NY.



**Considering Adoption?
Know Your Rights**

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**

You Should Know

New Jersey Adoption Law States:

1 In order to place your child for adoption you are required to sign a Surrender of Parental Rights and Consent to Adopt. You cannot sign this document until at least 72 hours after birth, and once signed it is irrevocable.

If the birth father is available, he must be notified of the adoption and when available, sign a Surrender of Parental Rights and Consent to Adopt. He must wait at least 72 hours after birth to sign, and once signed it is irrevocable.

In NJ, you can refuse to name the father and will be required to sign an affidavit explaining why.

If you are or were married during the year prior to birth, whether or not he is the father, your husband will be notified and asked to sign consent paperwork.



Other Important Information

- You have the right to at least **3 counseling sessions** provided by an adoption counselor or social worker employed by a NJ State Licensed Adoption Agency.
- You **cannot** accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- Adopting parents living in NJ **can pay for pregnancy related expenses** including living and medical expenses.
- If legal fees or medical expenses are paid by adopting parents, this does not mean that you must place your baby. If you change your mind, **you do not have to repay them.**
- Adoptions are legal in NJ when done through an agency, or privately through an attorney. However, **agencies, unlike attorneys, provide free counseling before and after placement.**

2 After you have signed the Surrender of Parental Rights and Consent to Adopt, **the law does not allow you to change your mind.** Because the surrender is irrevocable, options counseling is important prior to making your final decision.

3 Uncontested adoptions in NJ have no further court hearings that require notification or presence of the birth family.

For birthparents under the age of 18, state law may require some involvement by a parent or guardian. Please know that we will work with you to develop an adoption plan that is most comfortable for you.

This brochure was prepared for you by



If you need more information after reading this brochure, ask to speak to a hospital or clinic social worker, or call Adoptions From The Heart.

